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SISTER
CLUB

the CARRIER.....

Published Monthly by the Mount Diablo Amateur Radio Club

MDARC FIELD DAY CALL W6CX 2M REPEATER W6CX/R 220 REPEATER W6CX/R MEMORIAL CALL SIGN W6LGW
Volume XXXII November 1984 Issue No. 11

CLUB CALENDAR

- Nov. 11 Veterans Day
Nov. 16 General Meeting
Bring your ballots
Nov. 19 Board Meeting at Gigatronics
Nov. 22 THANKSGIVING DAY
Dec. 9 MDARC ANNUAL CHRISTMAS PARTY

Meeting Notice

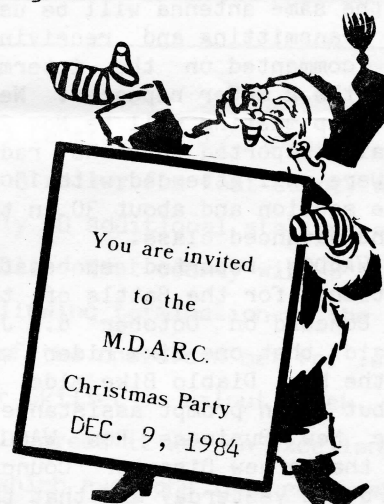
This month's meeting will be held at
the Grace Presbyterian Church
2100 Tice Valley Blvd.,
Walnut Creek
at 8:00 P.M.

The speaker for Nov. meeting will be
Frank Glass, K6RQ. He will demonstrate
"HOW TO GET THE MOST OUT OF YOUR MOBILE
ANTENNA". Question and answer period
following.

Nets

"Let's get a little action going"
Tech Forum/Swap NET
Thursdays 7:30 P.M. 147.66/06
Emergency NET is 146.43 Simplex 7:P.M.
then QSY to 7.735 after roll call Thurs.
Parky NET
Every Night 3895 +/- QRM 10 P.M.
NTS/NCN 3630 KHZ 7 PM daily
slow speed session 8:30 P.M.
NCN/VHF 145.41 MHZ WA6EUZ/R 7:30 P.M.
CCRA NET Mon. 7:35 P.M. 147.735

The Rocky Ridge Repeater Group of the
MDARC meets every two months to welcome new
members and refresh ideas with old.



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DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE: Articles, Classified Ads, etc. by November 26, 1984

Next Board Meeting at: November 19, 1984 8:00 P.M. at Gigatronics, 2495 Estand Way, P.H.

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MDARC General Meeting

MT. DIABLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
OCTOBER 19, 1984 MEETING

The meeting was called to order by Vice President Joe, WA6DQN. Several visitors were introduced. Attention was called to the election of officers for 1985. Several members turned in ballots during the evening.

Rick Barber announced the Club Christmas party, Sunday December 9, at the Elks Club in Concord. Doors will open at 5:30 pm, dinner at 6:30. The cost will be \$9.50.

Emergency coordinators Hank W6ZHY and Jim KA6IVF outlined plans for the Simulated Emergency Test tomorrow, November 20. SEC Dwayne W6LKE noted that the County emergency budget included \$5,000 for amateur radio.

Scott WB6PQM reported that a new coax feed line had been installed for the 220 MHZ repeater last weekend, and that the duplexers would follow soon so that the same antenna will be used for both transmitting and receiving. Jay KT6Y commented on the intermod problem in the 2 meter repeater. Next Repeater Group meeting will be Nov 21.

Jay also reported that the radio classes were well attended with 15 in the Novice section and about 30 in the General and Advanced class.

Joe WA6DQN reported successful communications for the Battle of the Bands in Concord on October 6. Jim KA6IVF said that one bike rider was hurt on the Mt. Diablo Bike ride on Oct. 14, but given prompt assistance.

Under New Business Ron WA6GJV reported that a new Disaster Council for Concord met yesterday and that the Concord Emergency plan would soon be updated.

The Chair announced that the scheduled speaker, Len Lansdowne W6FKF, was unable to reach Walnut Creek in time for the meeting because of traffic congestion in San Jose. After a break, Jim House described the Packet Radio system for transmitting messages automatically between computers. The meeting was concluded by Bill Holmes, K6DUV, who discussed the problems of recovering stolen property and offered advice on the best way to mark radio gear for identification.

MDARC BOARD MEETING

MOUNT DIABLO AMATEUR RADIO CLUB
OCTOBER BOARD MEETING

The board met at Gigatronics conference room on Monday evening October 22, 1984 at 8:00 pm. Present were President Harry Styron K6MFV, Vice President Joe Gregory WA6DQN, Treasurer Larry Kaye W6CPO, Emergency Coordinator Hank Berriman W6ZHY, Rick Barber WB6EZI, and Don Bertrand N6EEQ.

The Treasurer reported that he had transferred the entire \$900.00 which the Club had approved for purchase of a new repeater control deck from savings to the checking account.

After discussion Larry was designated to collect and count the ballots for next year's officers.

Main business concerned plans for the Christmas party. Rick noted that the balance of the payment for the Elks Club was still due, the deposit of \$100 not covering the full rental. The meal including tax and service charge will come to \$8.39 per plate. Providing meals for the musicians and subsidizing the half-price meals for children will amount to at least an additional dollar per person.

It was moved and unanimously voted to set the price of the party tickets at \$9.50 (adult) and \$4.75 for children. Reservation forms will be mailed out with the November CARRIER. Reservations and payment should be sent to Rick Barber, with checks made out to the M.D.A.R.C.

The budget for ladies gifts was considered. Of the \$400 budgeted for the party, \$200 go to the Elks club for rental of the hall; about \$50 will be needed to cover half price tickets for children, leaving \$150 for prizes.

Don N6EEQ expects to provide suitable awards and plaques for less than the \$150 budget. Nominations for the Ham of the Year and Kilroy awards should be made to him in writing.

According to Bill Moresi the Club Directory will be ready "soon".

The Board will meet at Gigatronics again in November. Adjourned at 2050.

WA6DQN acting secretary.



RACES/ARES

The QST article regarding the Annual SET was quite accurate when it was stated that this year's activity would "involve some experimentation". Saturday, October 20, at 0800 we began a most interesting exercise. The scenario was the failure of several local reservoir dams resulting in a need to house many evacuated families affected by each of the dams which failed. The need for communications to supplement our public services at the many evacuation centers was the basic operation. Simplex VHF 2 meters was used between and from each of these points to the OES, Martinez. Various schools and public buildings were used as locations to determine which paths were satisfactory and which were not. Although we used repeaters (W6CX and WA6WVH) for initial check-in and for making assignments, (some mobile stations covered up to 3 different locations) the primary purpose was to learn the effectiveness of the VHF simplex communications.

One new (old?) experiment was to have HF mobile radio operating on 3975 kHz as a back-up and it worked great in every case. In the few locations isolated with VHF simplex, we worked out very well on HF.

There were at least 2 failures of dams in each of the basic areas of Contra Costa County. In addition we had liaison with Solano County thru OES. W6LKE activated the States Region II Emergency Services Station in Pleasant Hill. KA6IVF set up a mobile communication command post in the parking lot at OES with wireless intercom to N6DRT inside the OES station and controlled 13 Central

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led 13 Central County stations. WA6ZFZ was controller for East county with approximately 10 additional stations and WA6JSO controlled West county with 8 stations.

Following termination of the SET at noon, many of the operators met for lunch at the Copper Skillet in Walnut Creek. I believe we all agreed it was an excellent exercise from which everyone learned something. Most important, there are a number of places in our county that VHF simplex cannot cover without relay. Also we need more operators to cover multiple communication nets and additional simplex frequencies so that our command frequency is not overloaded with traffic.

All in all, thanks to those who participated in a job very well done.

73 HANK

FCC Acts to Implement New Amateur WARC Bands

The FCC has released a Notice of Proposed Rule Making (PR Docket 84-960) looking toward eventual implementation of Amateur Radio Service privileges internationally agreed upon at WARC-79. The Final Acts of the 1979 World Administrative Radio Conference was ratified by the U.S. on September 6, 1983 and carries the weight of an international treaty.

Earlier in the year (January 19, 1984), the Commission added the new WARC amateur bands and changes to the "Table of Allocations" - an authorized list of spectrum segments allocated to the various radio services.

Now that the new ham bands have been officially allocated to the Amateur Radio Service by the U.S., the next step for the Commission is to determine exactly how the amateur community will utilize them. Operating guidelines, authorized emissions and sub-band segment boundaries must all be agreed upon and assigned.

A number of petitions were also filed by several prominent amateurs (and the ARRL) seeking to release the new bands... particularly the new HF bands at 18.068-18.168 and 24.890-24.990 MHz. The League also asked that the new 902-928 MHz band be immediately released to the amateur community. Many commenters responded to the petitions and initial (January '84) Rule Making by suggesting their own version of how the bands should be used.

The following is a summary of the FCC version of how the new WARC bands should be allocated for use by the ham radio fraternity. (Remember the Rule Making is an NPRM which solicits additional public comment before a final Report & Order is issued.)

THIRTY METERS - 10.100 to 10.150 MHz:

Present allocation: Band was released to U.S. amateur community on an interim basis during the fall 1982 on a secondary basis. The 10.109 to 10.115 MHz segment was excluded (protected) due to government use of 10.112. Emissions were restricted to CW (A1) and RTTY (F1 frequency shift keying and A2J audio tones keyed with SSB) Voice emissions

are not authorized. Amateur stations must not interfere with foreign stations operating in the Fixed Service. Available to General Class amateurs and higher - 200 watt PEP output power limitation.

Proposed allocation: Same except 10.109 to 10.115 MHz exclusion removed. While the FCC has proposed "no special power limitation", the Commission said that amateurs could utilize the entire 10.100 to 10.150 MHz band "during the pendency of this proceeding" with a 200 watt PEP output power limit. Thus the 10.109 to 10.115 MHz "window" no longer exists effective immediately. Thirty meter band also to be made available for RACES (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Service) operation.

SEVENTEEN METERS - 18.068 to 18.168 MHz.

Present Allocation: Band is presently allocated to the Fixed Service. It was WARC re-allocated to the Amateur and Amateur Satellite Service subject to present Fixed Service users being "reaccommodated" (moved.)

Proposed Allocation: A WARC U.S. footnote provides that the band "remain an alternative allocation to the Fixed Service until July 1, 1989." IRAC (the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee which oversees government frequencies in much the same manner that the FCC does in the private sector) "has concluded that the United States government fixed operations in the 18.068-18.168 MHz band would preclude any Amateur Radio Service usage of this band prior to 1989." The FCC did NOT propose earlier amateur access to the seventeen meter band.

TWELVE METERS - 24.890 to 24.990 MHz.

Present Allocation: Worldwide WARC primary allocation to the Amateur and Amateur-Satellite Service subject to the same "reaccommodation" of present Fixed Service users as the Seventeen Meter band. Again, the band is scheduled to be turned over to the Amateur community on/before July 1, 1989.

Proposed Allocation: The FCC reports "We have been informed by (the) NTIA (National Telecommunications & Information Administra-

M. D. A. R. C.

1984 Annual Christmas Party
Sunday, December 9th
Concord Elks Club, Willow Pass Road



Menu:



Chicken
Rice
Vegetable
Green Salad & Dressing
Roll & Butter
Carrot Cake
Coffee & Punch

{ Wine available at the Bar }

\$ 9.50 per person (includes tax & tip)

\$ 4.75 children under 12

Doors open 5:00 p.m. Dinner 6:00 p.m.

This event is for the entire family~
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Mark Your Calendars NOW!

tion - an advisory agency to the White House) that shared use of this band by the Amateur Radio Service with current United States government fixed operations would be acceptable, given the anticipated low level of solar activity during the next several years." The Commission therefore proposed "immediate implementation of allocation of this band to the Amateur Radio Service and to the Amateur Satellite Radio Service."

The FCC went along with the ARRL recommendation that 24.890-24.930 MHz be reserved exclusively for A1 and F1/A2J emissions, and that the frequency band 24.930-24.990 MHz be reserved for A1, A3, A4, A5, F3, F4 and F5 emissions.

No special power reductions were proposed by the ARRL or the FCC "other than those which generally govern the Amateur Service." The band would be available for General Class and higher licensees. The Commission said that they were also adding language "to make it clear that amateur operation in this band will continue to be on a secondary basis to international Fixed and Mobile operations which have not yet been reaccommodated."

420 TO 430 MHZ AMATEUR BAND

Present Allocation: This band segment is authorized to all U.S. amateurs, Technician Class and above. There is a 50 watt power level restriction around a few military installations.

Proposed Allocation: As part of the WARC-79 accord, Canada withdrew the 420-430 MHz segment from its amateurs and substituted the 902-928 MHz band in its place. Canada reallocated the 420-430 MHz spectrum to their Fixed and Mobile Service. The FCC responded by agreeing to provide protection along the Canadian border so as not to interfere with these operations. A U.S./Canada treaty arrangement on this was entered into on April 7, 1982. The 430-450 MHz segment is not affected.

A boundary extending from the state of Washington to Maine (dubbed "line A") has been determined in which U.S. amateurs will be prohibited from 420-430 MHz operation. Included in the amateur blackout area are such major cities as Seattle, Detroit, Cleveland and Buffalo. The biggest impact will be on amateur television since most ATV repeater and simplex stations operate in this segment.

To reduce the burden, however, the Commission will allow any UHF amateur station already operating in the 420 to 430 MHz segment to continue communications until the FCC makes a final ruling on the matter. "These stations must cease their transmissions

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upon notification by us if the Government of Canada objects to their continued operation."

The FCC is also proposing to allow any amateur station to operate in this segment after the Report & Order is issued providing a waiver is obtained from the Commission. The U.S. will first check with Canada to determine the affect of the amateur station on Canadian operations.

902 TO 928 MHZ AMATEUR BAND

Present Allocation: This is a new WARC-79 allocated ham band in Region 2 (North & South America.) It is allocated to the Fixed and Mobile Services in the rest of the world. While the band was allocated in 1980 to the Amateur Service on a secondary basis to Government Radiolocation, U.S. amateur use has yet to be authorized.

Proposed Allocation: The ARRL petitioned to implement allocation of this band to the Amateur Radio Service some time ago. The FCC now proposes to do this in all of the United States and its possessions except for Colorado, Wyoming and U.S. possessions in Region 3 where the band is not allocated for the amateur use. A U.S. WARC stipulation prohibits 902-928 MHz amateur operation in Wyoming and Colorado, but "footnote US 267" didn't say why. Usually the reason is due to unspecified defense considerations.

The FCC said that "Amateur operation in this frequency band would be secondary to the operation of Government stations, AVM (Automatic Vehicle Monitoring) systems and ISM (industrial, scientific and medical) devices." Microwave ovens operate in this range and amateurs must accept its interference.

Confusingly the Commission said "...U.S. amateurs would be required to avoid harmful interference to authorized fixed, mobile and broadcasting operations in Regions 1 and 3. (I can't imagine 902-928 MHz transmissions having international implications although I guess in this satellite age, anything is possible.)"

Noting that the ARRL "did not seek any division of the 902-928 MHz frequency band into subbands" the FCC proposed that the entire band be made available to all amateur radio operators above the Novice Class using any authorized emission. No special power limitations were proposed. Repeater operation would be authorized and the League has a band plan all set to go.

Interested persons may file comments on the NPRM proposing to implement the new WARC bands on or before December 17, 1984. Replies are due by January 16, 1985. Formal participants must file and original and five copies. (An original and eleven copies if you want each Commissioner to have a copy. Members of the general public who wish to express their interest by commenting informally may do so by submitting one copy. (Refer to PR Docket 84-960. Send comments to: Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554.)

KABC syndicated "The Ray Briem Show" will feature "shortwave radio" as their subject on December 15. Show is at midnight local time - 0500 GMT. And ladder expert KB1DJ, Alan Kline (also a writer for Worldradio newspaper) will be featured on the 300 station PBS (public television) network's "This Old House" program on show #402.

COMMENTS NEEDED ON ANTENNA ZONING

Apparently the amateur community does not feel too strongly about antenna zoning by cities and states. At least that is what one might assume by the number of comments have been filed with the FCC. More are urgently needed... and quickly!

The ARRL filed a massive (twenty-eight typewritten page) document with the FCC on July 16, 1984, entitled "Establishment of a Policy of Limited Federal Preemption of State and Local Regulation of Amateur and Other Radio Station Installation and Operation." It was authored by Chris Imlay, N3AKD, ARRL General Counsel and extremely well done! The League asked the Commission to issue a "Declaratory Ruling" that local and state governments may not arbitrarily prevent antenna effectiveness by zoning against them.

The ARRL document is almost identical to another filed six weeks earlier by DBS (Direct Broadcast Satellite) carrier, United Satellite Communications, Inc. USCI is the nation's only operational direct-to-rooftop-dish subscription satellite television service. Their need for a pre-emptive statement is due to a lack of any appreciation of the technical needs of that service by local land use officials and/or city councils. Municipalities in the mid-west are outlawing satellite dishes - even small 3 foot diameter ones as unsightly.

The League is very supportive of USCI's petition since the Amateur Radio Service suffers the same problem in residential areas - and has for decades. Needless to say that any ruling in USCI's favor might also impact the Amateur Radio Service, but this is not necessarily so.

ARRL PR man, Pete O'Dell, KBIN, phoned me last week and asked that advise my readers of the importance of this issue and what is at stake. The League particularly wants the FCC to hear from amateurs who have local restrictions that prevent antenna effectiveness.

The FCC published the "Request for Issuance of Declaratory Ruling" in the September 14th Federal Register and set a public

comment period which extends until November 9. Very few comments have been received by the Commission in support of the ARRL petition.

To make matters worse, the USCI petition is opposed by many organizations that represent local government interests (such as the American Planning Association, National League of Cities, etc.) who argue that USCI has not demonstrated that there is indeed a serious problem. It appears that from the lack of supporting comments that the amateur community also does not feel that there is a problem.

We have obtained a copy of the ARRL petition and will summarize the League arguments in it for you. You might want to cover this as quick as you can on any amateur networks that you participate in and try to rally some support. Then send in your comments to the FCC. Assign some one to do the writing with net participants supplying the ideas. It is of critical importance. The FCC has to do "something" with the petition. Let's be certain they know that the problem does exist.

ARRL ARGUMENTS ON ANTENNA ZONING....

(1.) - Amateur radio has struggled for over half a century trying to convince municipalities that amateur radio is interstate commerce and of such a nature that unreasonable local regulation makes it impossible to accomplish the statutory and regulatory goals set for it by the Federal Government.

(2.) - There have been many state court zoning cases that hold that amateur radio is a normal, reasonable and incidental use of residential real property.

(3.) - Amateur radio antennas and transmitters have been and are now routinely regulated to the point of uselessness by municipalities under the guise of state police power zoning authority.

(4.) - It is seldom that a municipal restriction on amateur antenna systems which actually impairs the station's communication effectiveness bears any trace of a basis in safety and health concerns. Most seem to deal with "aesthetics" and are arbitrarily established.

(5.) - Amateur antenna cases consistently pit licensees against the very communities they seek to serve with public service and emergency communications resulting in the expenditure of funds which can never be recouped to defend a federally-granted right to operate an amateur station in the licensee's home.

(6.) - Most amateur antenna cases are disposed of by summary judgement against an amateur, specifically because the Federal government has never stated its interest in effective, reliable amateur communications. Thus amateurs are denied a basis for arguing that municipalities must not enact restrictions so severe as to preclude effective, reliable amateur communications.

(7.) - Since amateur radio is a non-commercial service, amateurs seldom have financial resources to challenge local ordinances. Rather they are routinely put off the air entirely or forced to operate with inferior, ineffective indoor antennas which increase incidents of radio frequency interference.

(8.) - In 1977 the FCC issued a Public Notice entitled "Local Laws Regulating Radio May be Pre-empted by Communications Act" and discussed the Commission's jurisdiction and pre-emptive authority over local regulation of radio. It offered no means, however, by which a municipality might judge an ordinance as unduly restrictive which should be pre-empted.

(9.) - The FCC has only exhibited concern over antenna height where airport safety is involved. The Rules have no detailed regulation of antenna height, but rather one blanket limitation on height to 200 feet.

(10.) - State and local laws "stand as an obstacle to the accomplishment and execution of the full purposes and objectives of Congress" as reflected in the Federal regulation of amateur radio pursuant to the Communications Act of 1934.

(11.) - The Commission should issue a ruling which states the Commission's intent to pre-empt all local ordinances which provably preclude or significantly inhibit effective, reliable amateur communications and which are not clearly necessary to insure the safety of a proposed antenna installation.

The statement should indicate that while conditions may be placed on the antenna installation, to assure that reasonable local interests are met, they cannot be so restrictive as to prevent antenna effectiveness.

Send one original and four copies of your comments to: Secretary, FCC, Washington, DC 20554. Be certain that your comments state that they are in response to "PRB-1."

From:
Mt. Diablo Amateur Radio Club, Inc.
P.O. Box 23222
Pleasant Hill, Calif. 94523

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HAPPY THANKSGIVING

